



The City of San Diego

Staff Report

DATE ISSUED: August 30, 2021

TO: Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: San Diego Police Department – Neighborhood Policing Division

SUBJECT: Neighborhood Policing – HOT, SIP, PERT, PLEADS, Diversion Programs Overview

Primary Contact:	Assistant Chief Bernie Colon	Phone: (619) 531-1502
Secondary Contact:	Captain Shawn Takeuchi	Phone: (619) 531-2635

Council District(s): Citywide

OVERVIEW:

San Diego Police Department update presentation on Neighborhood Policing Division.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

This item is for information only.

DISCUSSION OF ITEM:

The San Diego Police Department's Neighborhood Policing Division was established on March 10, 2018, to create a more streamlined approach to how the San Diego Police Department works collaboratively with the community regarding quality of life issues. The Neighborhood Policing Division gives the Police Department the ability to be more efficient in addressing quality of life issues by better utilizing resources and by proactively addressing complaints from community members and business owners.

The mission of the Neighborhood Policing Division is to enhance the quality of life and safety in San Diego neighborhoods through problem solving partnerships and compassionate enforcement.

The structure of the Neighborhood Policing Division centralizes the Homeless Outreach Teams, Neighborhood Policing Teams, and Crime Prevention Teams, along with Investigations under one chain of command with one focused mission, to connect our homeless population with the resources that are available.

Homeless Outreach Team - Our Homeless Outreach Team is designed to allow for seven day a week coverage. We have three fully licensed PERT Clinicians, four HHSA Benefit Specialists and two County of San Diego nurses administering COVID vaccines and assisting our field teams.

Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) – Our PERT teams consist of a county-funded mental health clinician paired with a San Diego Police Officer. They respond to calls for service relating to individuals suffering from mental illness as well as make proactive house calls to check on known individuals who are suffering from mental illness. The county has allocated 36 PERT clinicians to the San Diego Police Department. We currently have 35 of those positions filled.

Serial Inebriate Program (SIP) - diverts chronic homeless inebriates off the street, out of jails, emergency departments, and the legal system and into treatment and a life of sobriety and stability. SIP provides case management and treatment services to chronic homeless inebriates through the following process. An individual is:

- Arrested for drunk-in-public five times within 30 days;
- Mandated to treatment in lieu of custody;
- Provided intensive case management, continuum of care, and access to available services;
- Transitioned into financial stability, permanent housing, and
- Long-term recovery

Prosecution and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Services (PLEADS) - is a pre-booking, community-based diversion program designed to divert those suspected of being under the influence of a controlled substance away from jail and prosecution and into case management and other supportive services. The goals of this innovative approach are to reduce the harm that a drug offender causes him or herself and the surrounding community, to offer treatment services to participants, reduce recidivism rates for low-level offenders, and reduce the number of low-level offenders in jail. Participation is voluntary. PLEADS is adapted from the highly successful Serial Inebriate Program (SIP) and will provide access to services for individuals contacted by law enforcement for conduct related to their underlying substance abuse. Individuals may be offered a PLEADS referral by SDPD in lieu of arrest or by the Homeless Outreach Team during a social contact in a non-enforcement capacity.

Direct Placement Program- Is designed to give all individuals who are contacted by an officer with the Neighborhood Policing Division the opportunity to improve their living situation and be placed into an available shelter bed, while also providing them with access to additional resources and services. An individual who is contacted for any quality of life offense that would otherwise result in a physical arrest will have the opportunity to receive a citation in lieu of going to jail if there is a shelter bed available and they are willing to be transported to the shelter location at the time of the contact. Participation in this program is voluntary and involves their willingness to accept a shelter bed. The goal is to always offer a shelter bed when available and transport the individual to the shelter.

City Strategic Plan Goal(s)/Objective(s):

Goal #1: Provide high quality public service.

Objective #1: Improve external and internal coordination and communication.

Goal #2: Work in partnership with all of our communities to achieve safe and livable neighborhoods.

Objective #1: Protect lives, property, and the environment through timely and effective response in all communities.

Objective #2: Reduce and prevent crime.

Objective #3: Foster services that improve quality of life.

Fiscal Considerations:

N/A

Charter Section 225 Disclosure of Business Interests:

N/A; there is no contract associated with this action.

Environmental Impact:

N/A

Equal Opportunity Contracting Information (if applicable):

N/A

Previous Council and/or Committee Actions:

N/A

Key Stakeholders and Community Outreach Efforts:

Stakeholders include the citizens and visitors of San Diego.

David Nisleit

Chief of Police

Jay Goldstone

Chief Operating Officer